on September 11, Government has offered, on the basis of specific requests by the United States, assistance for the "Operation Enduring Freedom" in conformity with the existing guidelines for such clearances requested by friendly countries. These are overflight, landing and refuelling facilities for U.S. air missions and port calls by naval ships in support of the campaign in Afghanistan. The assistance approved by Government does not cover provision of military bases in India to the United States or participation in combat operations in any form.

Role of Indian Missions to step up foreign trade

1880. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the role of the Indian Missions abroad to step up foreign trade for the economic development of the country;

(b) whetehr any review of the achievements has been made by Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof stating the percentage of the country's share of global trade rose during 1999—2001 (till date) as compared to the previous year; and

(d) the policy changes, if any, contemplated by Government for greater involvement of the Indian Missions in promoting country's foreign trade?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Indian Missions abroad provide market intelligence and other inputs into policy formulation besides providing support for various export promotion activities, such as, visits of commercial delegations, buyer-seller meets, promotional exhibitions, etc.

(b) Appraisal and review of the performance of Indian Missions overseas in promoting the country's economic interests, including export promotion, is a continuous and ongoing process.

(c) India's exports, as a share of world trade, were 0.61% in 1998, 0.65% in 1999, and 0.67% in 2000.

(d) Government have drawn up a trade facilitation charter, laying down guidelines, for Indian Missions in countries of major commercial interest to India.

Foreign Minister's America visit

1881. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has visited USA in the month of October, this year;

(b) if so, the purpose of the visit and the details of the discussions held, agreements signed between both the countries; and

(c) the extent to which India has been provided with help to counter terrorism in the country?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Minister of External Affairs met the U.S. President, U.S. Secretary of State, U.S. Secretary of Defence, the U.S. National Security Advisor and senior leaders of the U.S. Congress in Washington D.C. In these meetings, the two sides discussed the situation arising out of the terrorist attacks on September 11 in the United States; the problem of terrorism, including India's own concerns with cross-border terrorism; the global campaign against terrorism, including the measures against the Taliban and the Al Qaida network in Afghanistan; and, further development of India-U.S. relations. Minister of External Affairs also visited New York to convey the sympathy and the solidarity of the people of India to the people of New York, including the Indian American community.

(c) On 05 October 2001, the White House Spokesman had stated at a press briefing that President Bush had condemned the terrorist attack in Srinagar on 01 October 2001 and that the President had also said that "terrorism must end everywhere, and that includes in Kashmir". Besides Harkat-ul-Mujahideen, which had been notified by the U.S. State Department as a Foreign Terrorist Organisation, the U.S. Department of Treasury has notified Jaish-e-Mohammad as a